Induction of PSs in US Grade

982. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal to stop induction of PSs in US Grade and participation of PAs in SO Exams;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether representations have been received from the concerned Stenographers Federation/Associations against the unilateral recommendations of the Brahma Committee, etc. in this matter; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto and the steps proposed to ensure justice to the Stenographers community by maintaining *status quo*?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (d) The Departmental Committee on Cadre Restructuring of the Central Secretariat Service has, in its report submitted on 28.02.2002, made several recommendations which, *inter alia*, includes stoppage of induction of PSs in US Grade and participation of PAs in SO Exam. There have been representations from the Associations representing the Central Secretariat Stenographers Service. The report of the Committee is under consideration of the Government.

Settlement of Anomalies Received from Departmental Council of DoP&T

983. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 590 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th July, 2001 and state:

(a) whether any progress has since been made in the matter of settlement of anomalies received from the staff side of Departmental Council (JCM) of DoP&T;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the action taken/proposed to be taken against the defaulting officers for keeping the issues pending for such a long time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) After the first meeting of the Anomalies Committee, which was held on 5/1/2001, the then Secretary Staff Side and some other Members of the Staff Side of the Departmental Council (JCM) of the Department of Personnel & Training lost in the organizational elections of their Association, namely, the Central Secretariat Non-Gazetted Employees Union. The Union started representing for replacement of these Members by the newly elected office bearers on the ground that the said Members had, on account of having lost the elections, ceased to be the representatives of the staff. On the other hand, the opposite faction of the staff questioned the validity of the elections of the new office bearers.

When it was proposed to hold the next meeting of the Anomalies Committee on 6/12/2001, the Union strongly opposed participation of the old Members of the Staff Side and reiterated their demand for replacement of old Members by the new office bearers, before a meeting of the Anomalies Committee could be convened. Consequently, the meeting scheduled for 6/12/2001 had to be postponed pending a decision on the new nominations made by the Union to the Staff Side of the Departmental Council.

After a through examination of the matter, nominations of the new members to the Staff Side were accepted by the competent authority in February, 2002, to the extent covered by the relevant rules/policy. The reconstituted Staff Side thereafter elected their new Leader and Secretary and their election was formalised in June, 2002.

Resumption of LTC Facility

984. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering resuming LTC facility for the Central Government employees;

(b) if so, the details of the decisions/proposals;

(c) whether Goernment propose to amend the rules in view of the drastic cuts in air fares; and